

I think it would be a mistake to grant BellSouth's petition at the FCC, asking the FCC to stop regulating broadband service. If this petition is granted, this would mean that the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their

broadband pricing to independent ISPs like Sonic.net. As a result, local ISPs would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise prices in the long term. The more serious threat is that it is even possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for local/independent DSL service, and local ISP's would be unable to sell DSL at all. BellSouth's claim is that because their own affiliated ISP service

(which is similar to SBC/Yahoo here in California) already controls a huge majority of the market, so squashing the rest of the competition isn't likely to impact the market much. I have already tried big ISPs and the customer support was horrible, to say the least.